

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-01 HA-05 /074 W
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R 301903Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7607
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 12924

USEEC

GENEVA ALSO FOR USDEL MTN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, EEC, EAID, ETRD
SUBJ: ETUC URGES INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS FOR
TRADE AGREEMENTS

REF: BRUSSELS 8282

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: THE 40 MILLION-MEMBER
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) IS NOW PUBLICLY
DEMANDING THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS BE REVISED
TO ADD A "SOCIAL DIMENSION," ONE INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL
FAIR LABOR STANDARDS. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING IN VIENNA JUNE 22-23, THE ETUC EXECUTIVE
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COMMITTEE APPROVED A STATEMENT FOR THE UPCOMING BREMEN
EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING URGING THAT "A CLAUSE BE ADDED
TO THE GATT TREATY SETTING OUT THE SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS ON
WHICH TRADE SHOULD BE BASED, AND THAT ARTICLE 19 OF THE
GATT TREATY BE REVISED TO PROVIDE FOR MORE REALISTIC
CRITERIA FOR USE OF SAFEGUARD ACTIONS."

3. THE ETUC POSITION ON A SOCIAL DIMENSION FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS IS EXPLAINED IN MORE DETAIL IN A WORKING DOCUMENT, ALSO ADOPTED IN VIENNA, DEALING SPECIFICALLY WITH THE LOME CONVENTION, THE TRADE AND AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND 53 AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND PACIFIC (ACP) COUNTRIES, WHICH IS UP FOR RENEGOTIATION THIS FALL. IN AN EXTRACT FROM THE ETUC DOCUMENT JUST RELEASED HERE TO THE PRESS, THE ETUC CITES THREE "SOCIAL" ELEMENTS NEEDED IN THE NEW ACP-EC CONVENTION:

-- "ALL EC MEMBER STATES MUST APPLY THE INTERNATIONAL AID TARGET--0.7 PERCENT OF GDP FOR OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT AID--AND MUST WORK FOR MORE EXTENSIVE HARMONIZATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES OF THE EEC MEMBER STATES AS A WHOLE."

-- "FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, TRADE UNION RIGHTS, AND MINIMUM LABOR STANDARDS MUST BE INCLUDED EXPLICITLY IN THE CRITERIA TO BE FULFILLED PRIOR TO ANY COMMITMENT THROUGH THE CONVENTION."

-- LABOR AND MANAGEMENT GROUPS MUST BE CONSULTED REGULARLY DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWING THE CONVENTION.
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4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THE PRESS RELEASE DESCRIBES THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WORKING DOCUMENT AS "A BASIS FOR ETUC ACTIVITIES IN THE LOME II NEGOTIATIONS." AN ETUC HEADQUARTERS STAFFER, HOWEVER, TOLD US THAT THE DOCUMENT IS MEANT TO LAY DOWN ETUC POLICY ON ALL TRADE AND AID ISSUES. THE DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, AND THE REASON, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, IS THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO ESTABLISH A COMMON POSITION WITH ACP UNION LEADERS, WHOSE PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN IS DENIS AKUMU, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY (OATUU).

5. WE HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT, HOWEVER, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. THE PAPER INCORPORATES SEVERAL POINTS INCLUDED IN RECENT ETUC DRAFT PAPERS (REFTEL). FOR EXAMPLE, THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EMBRACED THE POINT THAT TRADE LIBERALIZATION IS ACCEPTABLE TO LABOR ONLY IF IT MEETS CERTAIN CONDITIONS. "TRADE LIBERALIZATION," THE ETUC PAPER STATES, "CANNOT BE ACCEPTED IF:

-- "THE BENEFITS OF TRADE ONLY ACCRUE TO A SMALL SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION, THEREBY ACCENTUATING THE MALDISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND WEALTH IN SOCIETY AND

ENHANCING, IN MANY CASES, THE STATUS OF CORRUPT AND UNDEMOCRATIC ELITES."

-- "THE PROFITS ARISING OUT OF TRADE ARE TO THE EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF LARGE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES."

-- "HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS ARE NOT BEING RESPECTED IN THE PURSUIT OF TRADE POLICIES."

6. THE ETUC DOCUMENT ALSO ENDORSES AN EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY-WIDE INVESTMENT PROTECTION AND GUARANTEE SCHEME TO COVER PRIVATE EEC INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUT ADDS THAT SUCH A SCHEME SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING:
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-- "NORMS OF CONDUCT FOR HOST COUNTRIES AND INVESTORS" REQUIRING OBSERVANCE OF BASIC HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS.

-- "MONITORING MACHINERY, WITH REPRESENTATION FROM THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 12924

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7. IN A SPECIAL SECTION ON HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS, THE ETUC PAPER APPROVES THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL THAT THE NEW LOME CONVENTION SHOULD EXPLICITLY REQUIRE THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO OBSERVE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. THE PAPER ALSO URGES THAT SPECIFIC ILO CONVENTIONS BE INCORPORATED IN THE LOME CONVENTION--I.E., THOSE ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (NO. 87), THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY (NO. 98), FORCED LABOR (NO. 29 AND NO. 105), AND EQUAL REMUNERATION AND NONDISCRIMINATION (NO. 100 AND NO. 111). THE ETUC ALSO ADVOCATES DRAWING UPON ILO PERSONNEL TO HELP SPELL OUT THE SPECIFIC RULES AND TO HELP MONITOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

8. THE ETUC PAPER CRITICIZES THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
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PRESENT LOME CONVENTION: "DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF OPERATION, THE CONVENTION HAS BEEN LARGELY INFLUENCED BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, AND THUS THE PROVISIONS TO EXTEND THE INFLUENCE OF THE CONVENTION TO A BROADER BASE OF THE POPULATIONS DIRECTLY CONCERNED HAVE ON THE WHOLE NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED.... A MAJOR PART OF THE CONVENTION ADMINISTRATION HAS SHOWN A CERTAIN RELUCTANCE TOWARDS INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT."

9. IN REGARD TO LOME II, "THE ETUC INSISTS ON THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BEING CONSULTED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS" AND ON ITS BEING INVOLVED IN AN ADVISORY OR MONITORING ROLE IN SOME ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION'S IMPLEMENTATION.
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